

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIM

1. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a 5-cyanovaleric acid or its ester comprising reacting pentenenitrile with carbon monoxide and water and/or an alcohol in the presence of a catalyst system, comprising

- (a) a source of Group VIII metal and
- (b) a bidentate phosphine[, arsine and/or stibine] ligand, wherein the bidentate ligand has the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein $[M^1$ and M^2 are independently P, As or Sb,] R is a divalent organic bridging group, which bridging group comprises a chain of 3 to 5 atoms directly connecting the 2 phosphorus atoms, which chain consists of carbon atoms and optionally a nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atom or a silano or dialkylsilicon group, which alkyl groups independently comprise from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R^1 - R^4 represent the same or different optionally substituted tertiary alkyl groups,

- (c) an acid having a pKa less than 3, as measured at 18 °C in an aqueous solution.